



# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 14 No. 12

December 2002

## Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Essentially Unchanged for Third Straight Month

### The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged for the third month in a row. The unemployment rate for November was 5.1 percent compared to 5.2 percent in October and 5.1 percent in September. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents in November held steady at 26,300. A year ago November, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the jobless level was 24,600. Nationally, the unemployment rate jumped 0.3 of a percentage point in November, tying this year's peak of 6.0 percent reached in April. Rhode Island's jobless rate remained below the national average for the sixteenth month in a row.

"The upward trend in the unemployment rate, which began over the summer months, appears to have moderated," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "The latest data on Rhode Island's labor market show that unemployment conditions are virtually unchanged over the last three months."

### Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

Rhode Island employers added 4,800 jobs over the year, a 1.0 percent increase. Total employment rose to 490,000 jobs in November 2002, up from the 485,200 jobs reported one year ago. The Services (+1,800), Government (+1,600), Trade (+1,200) and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+1,000) sectors reported significant job growth, offsetting employment losses in Manufacturing (-600) and Transportation & Public Utilities (-300).

In Services, employment gains in Health Services (+1,100), Social Services (+500) and Amusement & Recreation (+200) offset a decline in Business Services (-1,800) jobs. Other Services, which includes Engineering Services, Accounting Services, Membership Organizations, Landscape Services and unclassified employers, was up 1,800 jobs. (Continued on Page 4)

## Employment in Rhode Island A New Look!

### The New Industrial Classification System

Industry classification systems are used to facilitate the analysis of employment data. Beginning in 2003, the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training will be publishing monthly establishment employment data using the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This new industry coding system, which was developed in cooperation with Canada and Mexico, is replacing the aging Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. NAICS provides a much better picture of the economy of the twenty-first century by reflecting the move away from a goods-producing manufacturing based economy to a service-providing, information based one.

NAICS divides the economy into twenty sectors. The 1,179 industries within these sectors are grouped according to the production criterion, which classifies businesses based on how a product is created or a service is performed. Five sectors are mainly goods-producing sectors and fifteen are entirely service-producing sectors. The SIC had ten divisions and used a coding principal which focused on the end product.

While many of the new NAICS sectors reflect recognizable parts of the SIC divisions, it is important to note that not all industries classified under a particular SIC division are classified under a similarly titled NAICS sector. For example, Eating and Drinking Places which were classified in the Retail Trade division under SIC, are now classified in the new Accommodation and Food Service sector, which also includes Hotel and Other Lodging Places previously classified in the Services division. The Services division has been further subdivided to form several new NAICS sectors. (Continued on Page 4)

**Best Wishes for a Happy  
and Healthy New Year!**

2003

## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics\*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01
Civilian Labor Force	513.5	508.9	502.0	516.5	510.5	504.8
Resident Employment	487.2	482.6	477.4	493.1	485.5	483.2
Unemployment	26.3	26.3	24.6	23.4	25.0	21.6
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.2%	4.9%	4.5%	4.9%	4.3%

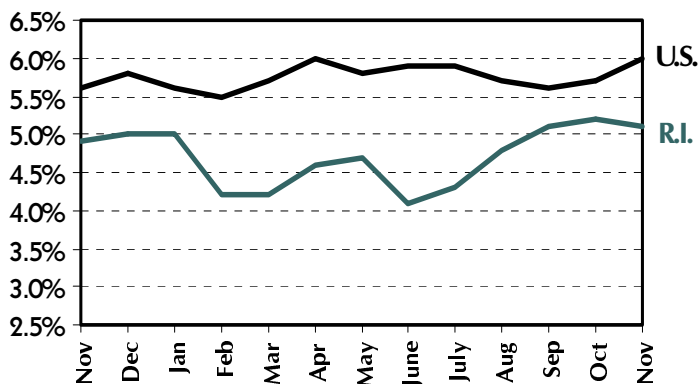
## United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01
Civilian Labor Force	142,733	143,123	142,279	142,405	142,878	141,911
Resident Employment	134,225	134,914	134,253	134,358	135,237	134,359
Unemployment	8,508	8,209	8,026	8,047	7,640	7,551
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	5.7%	5.6%	5.7%	5.3%	5.3%

## Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2001 - 2002



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Nov 02	Nov 01
Barrington	2.9	2.7
Bristol	4.2	3.2
Burrillville	4.7	3.8
Central Falls	7.2	7.1
Charlestown	4.5	4.9
Coventry	4.4	4.0
Cranston	4.3	4.0
Cumberland	4.5	4.2
East Greenwich	4.9	4.1
East Providence	5.1	4.5
Exeter	3.8	3.2
Foster	4.5	5.2
Glocester	3.3	2.7
Hopkinton	2.6	2.4
Jamestown	3.3	3.0
Johnston	4.9	4.2
Lincoln	4.3	4.1
Little Compton	4.0	3.6
Middletown	3.4	3.1
Narragansett	3.0	2.2
New Shoreham	11.2	11.0
Newport	3.9	3.7
North Kingstown	3.7	3.4
North Providence	4.7	4.0
North Smithfield	4.9	2.9
Pawtucket	5.3	6.0
Portsmouth	2.9	2.5
Providence	5.5	5.7
Richmond	2.3	1.8
Scituate	4.8	3.9
Smithfield	4.3	3.5
South Kingstown	3.2	3.0
Tiverton	4.0	3.9
Warren	4.3	4.0
Warwick	3.9	3.8
West Greenwich	5.3	3.8
West Warwick	4.3	4.0
Westerly	2.9	2.9
Woonsocket	6.6	6.1
State of R.I.	4.5	4.3

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Nov 2002	Oct 2002	Nov 2001	% Change		Year to Date		
				Oct 02	Nov 01	2002	2001	% Change
Initial Claims	6,518	6,074	7,832	7.3%	-16.8%	76,257	83,083	-8.2%
Number of Payments	42,052	41,849	45,854	0.5%	-8.3%	640,502	578,449	10.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$12.7	\$12.8	\$13.6	-0.9%	-6.5%	\$189.7	\$162.7	16.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,272	1,237	1,097	2.8%	16.0%	16,558	12,195	35.8%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$268.8	\$263.8	\$289.0	1.9%	-7.0%			

\*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, [www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi)

## NAICS Sectors

Listed below are the new Industry Sectors in the North American Industry Classification System:

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting

Mining

Utilities

Construction

Manufacturing

Wholesale Trade

Retail Trade

Transportation & Warehousing

Information

Finance & Insurance

Real Estate & Rental & Leasing

Professional & Technical Services

Management of Companies & Enterprises

Administrative & Waste Services

Educational Services

Health Care & Social Assistance

Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation

Accommodation & Food Services

Other Services, except Public Administration

Public Administration

## Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island\*\*

			Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
			Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01	Oct 02	Nov 01
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT			490.0	489.2	485.2	800	4800
GOODS PRODUCING			87.0	86.9	87.5	100	-500
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting							
Mining							
Utilities							
Construction							
Manufacturing							
Wholesale Trade							
Retail Trade							
Transportation & Warehousing							
Information							
Finance & Insurance							
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing							
Professional & Technical Services							
Management of Companies & Enterprises							
Administrative & Waste Services							
Educational Services							
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation							
Accommodation & Food Services							
Other Services, except Public Administration							
Public Administration							

\* Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

## Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01	Oct 02	Nov 01	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01
MANUFACTURING	68.2	68.1	68.8	100	-600	40.0	40.1	40.6	12.28	12.27	12.26
DURABLE MFG.	44.2	44.4	45.3	-200	-1100	40.2	40.2	40.4	12.06	12.06	12.05
Primary Metals	3.2	3.2	3.5	-----	-300	41.6	41.4	39.9	12.95	12.96	12.86
Fabricated Metals	7.8	8.0	7.7	-200	100	40.5	39.7	40.0	11.74	11.79	11.47
Nonelectrical Machinery	3.7	3.6	3.7	100	-----	38.9	39.3	40.1	13.72	13.72	13.74
Electrical Machinery	4.7	4.7	4.9	-----	-200	41.4	41.0	40.2	11.32	11.44	11.61
Trans. Equipment	4.0	4.0	3.8	-----	200	40.7	39.8	41.7	14.52	14.46	14.43
Instruments	5.0	5.0	5.3	-----	-300	40.0	40.2	40.8	12.84	12.84	12.78
Miscellaneous Mfg.	12.1	12.1	12.6	-----	-500	39.9	40.4	39.4	10.70	10.70	10.68
Jewelry, Incl. Costume	9.1	9.2	9.5	-100	-400	40.1	40.7	39.5	10.50	10.51	10.49
All Other Durables	3.7	3.8	3.8	-100	-100	39.5	39.7	43.3	12.42	12.42	12.52
NONDURABLE MFG.	24.0	23.7	23.5	300	500	39.7	39.9	40.9	12.67	12.68	12.64
Textiles	5.2	5.2	5.4	-----	-200	39.4	39.6	41.8	10.92	10.92	10.95
Printing-Publishing	5.3	5.2	5.0	100	300	39.5	39.7	42.8	16.65	16.65	16.75
Rubber & Plastic Products	4.4	4.4	4.4	-----	-----	39.1	40.9	38.3	13.29	13.29	13.21
All Other Nondurables	9.1	8.9	8.7	200	400	40.1	39.8	40.5	11.77	11.76	11.71

\*\*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

## RI Unemployment Rate Essentially Unchanged for Third Straight Month

(Continued from Page 1)

In the public sector, Local Government's addition of 1,700 jobs was due, in part, to the hiring of poll workers for the November election. Retail Trade (+900) employers sparked job growth in the Trade sector as Eating & Drinking Places (+400), and Miscellaneous Retail (+300) businesses increased employment. Wholesale Trade added 300 jobs as well.

Manufacturing employment continued to decline over the year as job losses in Jewelry & Silverware (-400), Instruments (-300) and Primary Metals (-300) offset employment gains in Other Non-durable Manufacturing (+400), Printing & Publishing (+300) and Transportation Equipment (+200).

### Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The change of seasons did not hinder over-the-month job growth in the Ocean State. November's total employment level represented an 800 job increase over October's total of 489,200 jobs. Growth in Government (+900) and Trade (+600) employment offset a seasonal decline in Services-related (-900) jobs.

**Government** – The public sector added 900 jobs in November, all of which came on the Local level. This addition is partially a result of the temporary hiring of poll workers for the November election.

**Trade** – Despite a late start to the holiday shopping season, Retail Trade businesses managed to boost their payrolls by 700 jobs. Apparel & Accessory (+500), General Merchandise (+500) and Miscellaneous Retail (+400) stores all increased employment, offsetting a seasonal decline in Eating & Drinking Places (-400).

**Manufacturing** – Manufacturing (+100) employment remained relatively stable over the month. Job growth was reported in Non-durable Manufacturing (+300), offsetting a decline in the sector's Durable (-200) components.

**Services** – The sector's loss of 900 jobs resulted from a decline in Business Services (-400) employment and seasonal layoffs in the Amusement & Recreation (-300) and Hotels & Other Lodging (-300) components. Educational Services (+200), Health Services (+200) and Social Services (+100) were the only sector components to report job growth.

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Nov 02	Oct 02	Nov 01	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	181.3	181.3	177.4	2.2%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## New On the LMI Web Site

*Ten Years Later...* highlights the major changes in Rhode Island's private sector employment between 1992 and 2001. Through graphs, charts, and statistics, this 20-page booklet examines job growth and decline on several levels, from individual economic sectors to RI's place among its regional and national counterparts. To view this publication on-line, visit the LMI products list at [www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/lmiprod.html](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/lmiprod.html).

## Employment in Rhode Island A New Look!

(Continued from Page 1)

### The New Industrial Classification System

RI will begin publishing NAICS-based establishment employment beginning with January 2003 data, which will be released in March 2003. After switching to NAICS, SIC-based establishment data will no longer be produced or published. As part of the conversion process, DLT plans to construct historical time series back to 1990, and hours and earnings data will be available from January 2001 forward.

DLT will also continue to assign and maintain SIC codes for registered employers through the end of calendar year 2003 in order to accommodate programs which determine a company's eligibility or responsibility based on its industry code. **Individuals responsible for administering such programs should be finalizing plans to apply the NAICS coding system to their rules and regulations.**

## Tentative Release Dates for 2003 Labor Force Statistics

<u>Month</u>	<u>Release Date</u>
January 2003	March 7
February 2003	March 28
March 2003	April 18
April 2003	May 16
May 2003	June 20
June 2003	July 18
July 2003	August 15
August 2003	September 19
September 2003	October 17
October 2003	November 21
November 2003	December 19
December 2003	January 23